

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 14, 2009

## SUPPORT PREVENTION AND EDUCATION ABOUT STILLBIRTH AND SUDDEN UNEXPECTED INFANT DEATH (SUID)

Co-Sponsor the Stillbirth and SUID Prevention, Education and Awareness Act

Dear Colleague:

I am writing to invite you to cosponsor the Stillbirth and SUID Prevention, Education and Awareness Act of 2009. This bill would improve the collection of critical data to determine the causes of stillbirth and Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID), increase education and awareness about how to prevent these tragedies in the future, and expand support services for families who have experienced a stillbirth or SUID loss.

Every year, there are more than 25,000 stillbirths in the United States. Many of these deaths are the result of birth defects, infections, umbilical cord problems, and chronic conditions of the mother. However, there is no known cause for as many as half of all stillbirths, leaving many parents without answers to the reasons for these deaths. The Stillbirth and SUID Prevention, Education, and Awareness Act would expand activities to identify the causes of stillbirth, identify ways to prevent it in the future and increase education and awareness about the issue among health care providers and parents.

In addition, there are more than 4,600 sudden unexpected infant deaths each year and another 200 children between the ages 1 and 4 die with no obvious reason for their death. Many such tragedies could be prevented if there were a better understanding of the reasons why these infants and children died. This bill encourages states to complete scene investigations to better understand why these children died, establishes a national database to track these deaths and identify risk factors to prevent them in the future, supports more comprehensive reviews, and creates a national public awareness campaign to educate parents and caregivers.

I hope you will join me in supporting this legislation. If you have questions or would like to cosponsor, please contact Apryl Clark at [apryl\\_clark@lautenberg.senate.gov](mailto:apryl_clark@lautenberg.senate.gov) or 202-224-3224.

Sincerely,

